UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/858
S/1999/256
9 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 8 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 8 March 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 8 March 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 9, 16, 24 February and 1 March 1999 (A/53/824-S/1999/137, A/53/832-S/1999/164, A/53/842-S/1999/206 and A/53/848-S/1999/218, respectively), addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

I would like to recall that similar charges on so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 26 January 1999 (A/53/808-S/1999/80). Suffice it to say that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the usurper regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

The repeated allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration demonstrate that it is not prepared to acknowledge the present reality of the existence of two sovereign States which will constitute the framework of a new partnership settlement in Cyprus. Instead, the Greek Cypriot administration has opted for a reckless policy of escalation and tension on the island through an unprecedented build-up of arms and armed forces within the context of the "joint military doctrine" with Greece. It is noteworthy in this context that, according to the Strategic Studies Center in South Cyprus, in 1998 the Greek Cypriot administration spent 5.5 per cent of GDP on armaments, putting its military expenditure as a percentage of GDP above that of NATO and European Union countries. On a per capita basis, the Greek Cypriot administration ranks among the highest in the world, with each Greek Cypriot "laying out $756 a year on defence, compared to $553 for the Middle East, $526 for Greece and a mere $131 for Turkey" (Greek Cypriot daily The Cyprus Mail of 24 February 1999).

Moreover, the latest developments pertaining to the capture in Nairobi of terrorist leader Abdullah Ocalan by Turkish security personnel and his current interrogation in Turkey demonstrates who is in collaboration with the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) terrorist organization and from where it receives support. The fact that Ocalan spent the last several days of his flight from justice at the residence of the Greek Ambassador in Nairobi and that a Greek Cypriot passport was found in his possession at the time of his capture is evidence that the Greek-Cypriot front supports terrorism directed at the Turkish nation. The flurry of statements made by Greek Cypriot political leaders and the disgraceful resolution adopted by the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives on 18 February 1999 in support of the chief terrorist are further concrete proof of the close alliance between PKK and the Greek Cypriot side.

The above-mentioned developments have further deepened the current crisis of confidence between the two sides in Cyprus and, as such, have complicated the

efforts towards finding a settlement. As long as the hostile attitude of the Greek Cypriot side continues, all efforts to achieve progress towards reconciliation between the two States will be in vain.

In view of the foregoing, all parties interested in peace and stability in Cyprus and the region should urge the Greek Cypriot side to desist from the policy of hostility it is pursuing, in collusion with Greece, against guarantor power Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus